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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09873 071236Z

47 S
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /050 W
---------- 021132
R 062250Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5623
INFO AMCONSUL CALI
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT CO
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO COLOMBIAN FONMIN LIEVANO

REF STATE 241824

1. THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO FONMIN LIEVANO WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGES OF ALL FIVE OF BOGOTA'S NOV 5 MORNING NEWSPAPERS. THE FREQUENTLY ANTI-U.S. EL PERIODICO, DESPITE A MISLEADING NEGATIVE HEADLINE, ALSO PRINTED REMARKS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FONMIN IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE "ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL EXPRESSIONS" CONTAINED IN THE MESSAGE AND HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MESSAGE INDICATES "THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE U.S. ATTRIBUTES TO THE INTERNATIONAL POSITION WHICH COLOMBIA HAS ASSUMED ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS AND PARTI-CULARLY TO THE POSITION WHICH COLOMBIA WILL SUSTAIN AT THE QUITO CONFERENCE.

2. PRESTIGIOUS, NORMALLY PRO-US EL TIEMPO, WHICH HAS RECENTLY HOWEVER BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE SECRETARY'S DECISION NOT TO GO TO QUITO, RAN TODAY (NOV 6) AN EDITORIAL, "KISSINGER'S EXCUSE", WHICH COMMENTED THAT THE MID-EAST CRISIS PROVIDED A CONVENIENT,
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IF VALID, EXCUSE NOT TO GO TO QUITO. THE EDITORIAL GOES

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ON TO DESCRIBE THE MESSAGE AS DEMONSTRATING THE "OSTENSIBLE INDIFFERENCE" WITH WHICH WASHINGTON REGARDS ITS RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT.

COMMENT: DESPITE EL TIEMPOS HARSH EDITORIAL REMARKS, THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE HAS PROBABLY EASED SOME OF THE RESENTMENT AND HURT FEELINGS AMONG COLOMBIANS OVER THE SECRETARY'S NON-ATTENDANCE AT QUITO. END COMMENT.
WHITE

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From: BOGOTA
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